

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Cuba REPORT NO. OO-A 3170614

SUBJECT Elias Horta, 1st Lt., Cuban Army; Anti-Castro DATE DISTR.

NO. PAGES

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. To Mid-Aug 60

PLACE & DATE ACQ. Throughout Cuba; To Mid-Aug 60

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE US national; former non-commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.

Source is a 23 year old ex-Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. According to source, he had been nominated by the Marine Corps to enroll in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at a US university, even though he had not finished his high school education. He reportedly did not accept this offer because he was much more interested in Special Forces type activity, and this led to his decision to leave the Marine Corps and a short time later to enlist in the Cuban Army. He appears to be a keen observer. While source's plans are indefinite, he should be available for further interview during the next few weeks (mid-October-November 1960).

1. I became acquainted with 1st Lt. Elias Horta during my tour of duty with the Paratroop Regiment of the Cuban Army (February - December 1959). He had received paratroop training at Fort Benning, Georgia while serving in the Cuban Army under the Batista regime. He later was imprisoned by the Batista regime for involvement in the 4 Apr 56 conspiracy.
2. Lt. Horta was selected by Maj. Enrico Borbonet Gomez, Chief of the Paratroop Regiment, in January 1959 to serve as an instructor and battalion commander in the unit. He transferred to the Barracoa base near Havana with most of the other officers of the Paratroop Regiment when it was disbanded in January 1960. Lt. Horta instructed troops at Barracoa until he became involved in a conspiracy some time around July 1960, and he is now a fugitive. During the period that I knew him he was always extremely critical of the Castro regime.

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